

with responsibility. This focus on teamwork and this commitment to helping others explain Brett's desire to become a marine, and also explains what kind of marine he became.

Brett's funeral was on the football field at East Clinton High School, and over 1,000 mourners attended to salute the young marine. Rev. Carey Hilterbran, who had known Brett since he was a boy, assured the crowd that it was not a day for sorrow—Brett had died living his dream. “[Brett] wasn't afraid,” he said. “He had a good mindset, and he knew what he wanted to do.” While Reverend Hilterbran was speaking, the members of the Astros football team—wearing their red and white jerseys—stood silently at attention.

Schuyler Streber was one of Brett's football teammates. In his words, the world is going to be a lesser place without Brett Wightman in it. Standing on the East Clinton football field, Schuyler said that “sometimes you want to laugh because of some of the things we did out here together, and [sometimes] you want to cry because of the more emotional times. And to think I'm here right now and he's not—that's something that's hard to face. . . . We'll all miss him very much.”

Duane Richard is a young artist who did not personally know Brett Wightman. But he was so moved by the young Marine's sacrifice that he painted a 30-foot-wide mural of Brett on the side of Duane's parents' barn. He lined the image with 13 American flags—one for each of the Lima Marines killed during the roadside bombing. The barn is along Snow Hill road in Sabina, and people stop everyday to gaze at the mural and take pictures.

The artwork reflects Brett's honor and courage, as well as the great respect that his fellow Americans have for his sacrifice. In Duane's words, Brett was a “true American hero.”

Brett Wightman put his life on the line to preserve the freedoms that we Americans hold dear. He cherished hometown values and the importance of helping those around him. His family and friends will never forget him. “Brett will never be in the past,” as his mother Pam so beautifully said.

Indeed, Brett will never be forgotten. My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Brett and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, those were three of the most beautiful tributes I have heard any of our colleagues give about the men and women who have died in service to this country. It was truly a testament to the strength of the Senator from Ohio, his caring and compassion for the people of Ohio that he and his team would take the time to compile such beautiful memories of these three young men and to share them with us in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as he did. I thank him for those beautiful tributes.

#### ROYALTY RELIEF

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to speak about amendment No. 5189 that is pending to the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

According to the unanimous consent agreement entered into a few moments ago, when we return in December we will take up an amendment by Senator CONRAD and I will have time after that amendment to speak again about this issue. It is an issue that I believe we have an opportunity to resolve before this Congress comes to an end. According to the schedule we are operating under, we only have a few more weeks to get our work done. There is a great deal of work that has to be done and a few things that can in fact be done on a bipartisan basis. This is one of them.

Both leaders have expressed their commitment to helping the Senate resolve the issue of expanded offshore drilling so we can provide more oil and gas for a country that is running short.

Four States—Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama, America's energy coast—have been proudly hosting this industry for over 60 years. We have contributed literally billions of barrels of oil, trillions of cubic feet of gas, and much money from the royalties paid has gone to the Treasury. But this is a problem we have to solve. It goes back to the 1998–1999 lease arrangements entered into by Minerals Management. This has been widely reported. It has also been the subject of several hearings in the Senate and the House.

Very simply, the Department made a series of mistakes. Those mistakes are being looked at to determine how and when and under what circumstances. But the fact is, although all the facts are not out yet, we do know that a serious mistake was made. When these contracts were entered into, there was no price threshold in them. When my predecessor Bennett Johnston wrote the Royalty Relief Act, which he did with some of his colleagues, it was always intended to be an incentive if the price of oil was low. At the time the bill was written, the price of oil was \$17 a barrel. We wish that were true today. But it was true back in the early to mid-1980s, when this bill was written.

As the process went on and these leases were entered into, the price threshold was left out. So now the price of oil is \$70 a barrel, or it has been recently, and what happened was, because the thresholds were not in there, the companies didn't have to pay royalties. The bottom line is, we have lost to date \$1.3 billion. It is estimated that we could lose as much as \$10 to \$12 billion; that is, the Federal Treasury.

My amendment has already been filed. If the Senate agrees to the amendment, it will fix that situation without violating contracts. We have established a way for Minerals Management to basically renegotiate the contracts. The taxpayers could then recover that money, and a portion of the money would then be used for the coastal restoration efforts so des-

perately needed in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the next few years. If this amendment is passed, coupled with the bill we have already passed, we will have some immediate funding to begin the project of saving our wetlands and securing the energy infrastructure that is a tremendous asset to the Nation. This isn't just about helping Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama. This is about protecting a great coastal wetland that came under tremendous challenge with Katrina and Rita and will come under challenges again. We most certainly can recover this money, \$11 billion, that does belong to the taxpayer. It was a mistake, a very bad mistake that was made. We can recover some of that money and most of it can go to deficit reduction. If anyone hasn't noticed lately, we have quite a deficit to tackle. Some of this money could go to deficit reduction, and some of it could go to the States under a program already authorized, already supported in a bipartisan way, already in the law, called the OCS Program where this money would be directed.

I thank my colleagues for allowing me to speak tonight. I have filed the amendment so Members could consider it on our break through the holiday and come back and try to restore this money to the Treasury, help take the deficit down, and let's get started saving these wetlands and protecting the coast which is so vital to the economic future of the Nation.

I thank my colleagues for their patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Louisiana. I hope the people of her home State are watching carefully. Senator LANDRIEU, even before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, worked very hard for her State. But since then, it has been nonstop. She is not the only one. There are many elected officials who are doing everything they can to help the families and businesses and others who were devastated. But I commend her to be here so late at night speaking up for her State again. I hope she is successful with her amendment which would bring resources to her State that are badly needed as post-Katrina construction continues.

#### SENATOR MIKE DeWINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a few moments ago, our colleague from the State of Ohio, Senator MIKE DeWINE, gave tribute to three Ohioans who lost their lives in Iraq. I listened to these carefully and I hope others did as well. They were beautiful life stories, beautifully written, beautifully spoken by

the Senator. I went up to him afterwards and asked him how many Ohioans had lost their lives in Iraq. He said the number was 140. He has given 90 tributes on the floor and hopes before he leaves the Senate in a few weeks to finish the last 50. He is determined to get it done as a tribute to these families. He said: It is about all we can do, isn't it? He is right. It says a lot about MIKE DEWINE, a lot that many of us already knew.

I came to Congress with MIKE in 1982. I recall we were both elected to the House of Representatives. I was from the central part of Illinois and he was from Ohio. We had a dinner at the White House. I recall that his wife Fran, who had just had a baby a few days before, came in her beautiful gown with her husband MIKE in a tuxedo, carrying a basket with their baby in it. They sat down next to Loretta and myself for dinner with President Reagan that night. I have joked about that because I met that little girl recently. She has grown up now, and we remembered the first time we ever laid eyes on her.

MIKE and I have worked on so many things—the global AIDS epidemic. He has been my go-to guy on the Republican side of the aisle. When I had absolutely given up any hope of passing legislation for hundreds of millions of dollars to save hundreds of millions of lives, MIKE managed to help out in many different ways.

He invited me once to travel to Haiti with him. Haiti is a DeWine family project. MIKE and Fran have made over 15 trips to that poor island and have met with so many people there in orphanages and on streets trying to help them. There is a little school in Port-au-Prince, the Becky DeWine school, named after MIKE and Fran's late daughter. They have poured more love and resources into that school for some of the poorest kids on this planet than we could ever count. They worked together with Father Tom of Hands Together and so many other great charities that have done such work.

As I listened to MIKE tonight give his tributes to these Ohio soldiers, I was reminded what a quality individual he is. Elections come and go. People win and people lose. But the quality of MIKE DEWINE's service to the Senate on behalf of the people of Ohio is written large in the history of this institution.

I thank him for his friendship and for his leadership. I wish him, Fran, and the entire family the very best in whatever their future endeavors might entail.

#### SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in a few moments there will be a number of resolutions offered on the floor of the Senate on a variety of different issues. Some of them have been spoken to. A resolution which I have offered is related to the fact that we are in the

fourth year of an anniversary of the death of our colleague Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota.

I look back on a career of service in the House and Senate and remember a handful of very special people who passed on or left this institution. One of those was Paul Wellstone. What an extraordinary fellow. The most unlikely Senator you would ever see. He just didn't look the part at all. Maybe that is why he did so well in Minnesota and was so effective here. He was cut from a different mold. He used to sit back here in the last row, and he would stand and speak. He would stand in the middle of the aisle as he spoke and would kind of saunter around. He had a back injury from wrestling. He loved wrestling; not the kind you see on television but real collegiate wrestling. His involvement in wrestling cost him some back injuries that haunted him his entire life. So he would walk with a kind of a cantered gait as he went back and forth on the aisle and all around the Senate.

But people didn't remember that part. They remembered what he had to say and they remembered what was in his heart. Paul Wellstone used to say that he thought there were two necessary ingredients for success in public service. One was hard work; the other was passion. He had both of them. Nobody worked harder for everything he believed in and for his State of Minnesota, and nobody came to these issues with more passion.

I can recall the last time I saw him. He was a few feet away from me here. It was the night we cast our vote on the Iraqi war. It was a vote that was a hard one. Nobody cared for Saddam Hussein. Nobody wanted to see him continue in power. We certainly wanted to protect our country. But there were genuine concerns felt by many of us as to whether we really understood what lie ahead in that war, the threat to the United States, and whether we were being told everything we needed to know.

Twenty-three of us voted against the war that night. I was one, Paul Wellstone was another. It was even later than now that night, and I came to the well on the floor to say goodbye to Paul because we were both off for the reelection campaigns of 4 years ago. I came over to wish him well, and I said, "Paul, I hope that vote doesn't cost you the election." He said, "You know, it is OK if it does because that is what I believe and that is who I am. The people of Minnesota would expect nothing less from me." It was the last time I ever saw him. He went home, and within 2 weeks he was killed in a plane crash with his wife and staff members.

I went up to the memorial service for Paul. There was an amazing turnout at the University of Minnesota in tribute to this small-in-stature but great-in-service Senator from Minnesota. The one thing that he returned to over and over again was the issue of fairness and

equal treatment for those suffering from mental illness. Paul's family had been stricken with mental illness, and hardly any family in America has been spared. He knew firsthand what it meant to suffer from mental illness and not be able to afford a doctor's care or the medicine needed by people who are suffering from it. He worked with Senator DOMENICI from New Mexico, a Republican, on passage of legislation for equal treatment under health insurance for those suffering from mental illness.

The Surgeon General determined in a 1999 report that mental illness is largely biologically based and effective treatments exist. It is a disease that can be treated. In 1996, Senators DOMENICI and Wellstone championed a bill requiring insurers to offer mental health care and to offer comparable benefit caps for mental health and physical health. But there was a big loophole in the bill, and they knew it. The bill didn't require group health plans to include mental health coverage as a benefit. Even with the 1996 law in place and 22 States mandating full parity, mental health services continued to be subject to higher limitations than other health treatments.

The parity law in place that I referred to expires at the end of this year. I hoped 4 years ago, when we were caught up in the emotions of Paul's death, that we would come back and pass legislation that he called for and worked for with Senator DOMENICI. Four years have passed and it hasn't happened. Many people continue to suffer, continue to go without the basic care they need.

Resolutions come and go, and very few people pay much attention to them. I don't think this will be a lead line in any newspaper in America, but the purpose of this resolution is to put the Senate on notice that it has been the fourth anniversary of the death of a man we loved in the Senate, Paul Wellstone, and also to urge us to remember his mission in the Senate when it came to mental health. The purpose clause of this resolution reads:

Congress should act to end discrimination against citizens of the United States who live with a mental illness by enacting legislation to provide for the coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage.

I would like the language to be stronger, but I understand this was the best we could do this evening. We can prove that Paul Wellstone was right and that we care about his legacy by enacting this legislation when we return. I will be working with Senator KENNEDY, Senator ENZI, and all of my colleagues to do our best to make sure that does occur.

#### DARFUR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight because during the break, I sat and watched "60 Minutes" with my wife one evening. During the